

Please OPPOSE SB16 and HB5416

Please SUPPORT SB388, HB5415, HB5412, and HB5418

3/12/22

To the Judiciary Committee

As a parent, a business owner, and a gun owner, I am very concerned about my second amendment rights and the rise of crime in our state.

Years ago, my brother's garage was broken into and thousands of dollars of tools and equipment was stolen. Naturally, he was concerned about his family's safety and we all went through the process of getting our concealed carry permits. He also put in motion sensor lights and got a dog. The thing that struck me the most, was that in reading the current law, he would have to wait until someone who entered his home uninvited (which in itself is a crime) threatened bodily harm to him or his family before he could use his legal firearm. Being a normal person who isn't in these situations regularly, we discussed possible scenarios. How do you determine that your life is threatened when you are for example, awoken in the middle of the night to a stranger in your house? You aren't 100% alert, but are rather thrust into consciousness with adrenaline and fear. If you take steps to protect yourself and your family by shooting an intruder in your home, you should not suffer legal consequences. I believe a presumption of the threat of bodily harm is an extremely reasonable position for anyone who has an intruder in their home.

On top of that, the world is becoming less and less safe, everywhere, including here in CT. There is a song I heard recently that has a line in it that goes something like, call the police and order food and see which arrives first. This strikes me as being extremely on point. We as citizens have a God given right to life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness. Anyone who threatens those rights is a criminal and should be dealt with severely. Nobody has a right to take my life, my freedom, or the things I've worked hard for all my life. Therefore, I have a right to protect myself, my family, and our assets.

I've played out scenarios of a car jacking with my small children present. I'm obviously not going to let a criminal take my car or get in it with my children present. I've read the laws and I'm not entirely sure how I'm expected to proceed when I'm a 5'2" woman who is carrying a legal firearm. It seems to me, I have a presumptive right to shoot someone who tries to get between me and my kids. If it's just my car, I get that it is a more questionable, but really why? Why should I ever be in a position where I have to let someone take my property or potentially hurt myself or my loved ones, when I am capable of stopping them? I am capable with my legal firearm. I have taken several training courses, I go the range regularly, I carry every day and go through the process of loading and unloading my magazine and storing my firearm in my safe at home. So why should I ever have to let someone commit a crime against me, my family, or my property without a fight that I am capable of winning?

As such, I SUPPORT all laws that increase my ability to carry my weapon and use it if I need to, such as SB388, HB5412, and HB5415.

I OPPOSE SB 16 and HB5416. I believe things like limiting the purchase of certain types and quantities of firearms and limit where we can take them do nothing but make it harder for legal firearms owners to practice their rights and do nothing to stop illegal firearm use or acquisition.

I'm in full SUPPORT of HB5418, which will hopefully deter some of the juvenile crimes being committed all across our state. As a business, I have been the victim of numerous crimes in the last few years, all vehicle related. We have had a vehicle stolen, damaged, and gutted of all tools and equipment. We have had another vehicle broken into and emptied of all its tools and equipment in our parking lot. We have also had two catalytic converters stolen off of vehicles in our parking lot. We have stopped calling the police because it is a waste of our precious time and detracts from the actual work we need to accomplish. The police don't get back to us after our initial call because they feel their hands are tied as nothing is done when they catch the criminals, as they are usually juveniles. After 40 years in the same location, we are feeling it necessary to install a security system as a deterrent. We will soon be able to sound alarms remotely when motion is detected around our building.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Jennifer Sylvia
Shelton